

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4666

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11972

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PMIL XF US UN

SUBJECT: PREVENTION OF EXPANDED HOSTILITIES IN ME

1. AS MANY OF OUR EMBASSIES IN ARAB WORLD HAVE PREDICTED, SITUATION IN AREA IS RAPIDLY GETTING OUT OF HAND, EVEN IN GOLAN, IT APPEARS THAT HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES DESPITE ISRAELI COUNTEROFFENSIVE, AND EGYPTIAN FORCES TO EAST OF CANAL MAY EVEN GROWING STRONGER. THUS, ISRAELI HOPES FOR QUICK REVERSAL OF SITUATION SEEM MOST UNREALISTIC. AS FIGHTING CONTINUES, IT WILL WITNESS INCREASINGLY SERIOUS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER ARAB STATES (E.G., IRAQ, SUDAN, ALGERIA), GROWING EMOTIONAL REACTION OF MODERATE ARAB RULERS SUCH AS KING FEISAL AND EMIR OF KUWAIT, AND MOUNTING PRESSURES OF HUSSEING (AS REPORTED FROM AMMAN). ALL THIS COMBINED WITH BREZHNEV APPEAL TO ALL ARAB TO JOIN IN FRAY, ADDS UP TO CONFLICT OF VASTLY LARGER DIMENSIONS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED.

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2. ON ISRAELI SIDE, IDF ACTIONS SUCH AS BOMBING OF DAMASCUS, HOMS AND EVEN LEBANESE RADAR STATION APPEARS TO SIGNAL SORT OF "MAD DOG" ATTITUDE MENTIONED BY GENERAL ZEIRA (DAO TEL AVIV 1542). THIS CANNOT FAIL TO INFLAME STILL MORE ARAB PASSIONS AND INCREASE THEIR DETERMINATION CARRY WAR TO ISRAEL, REGARDLESS OF COST TO THEMSELVES. (ARAB HAVE CLEARLY SHOWN THEIR ABILITY TO HURT ISRAEL.) IT COULD EVEN PRECIPITATE DESPERATE USE OF ARAB AIRCRAFT IN RETALIATORY BOMBING RAIDS ON ISRAEL PROPER (CAIRO 3007).

3. CERTAINLY ISRAELIS DO NOT WANT CEASEFIRE UNTIL THEY HAVE AT LEAST RESTORED STATUS QUO ANTE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE ARABS--WHOSE OPERATION APPEAR MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN MAY ORIGINALLY HAVE ANTICIPATED--HAVE THEIR STEAM UP AND ARE ALSO APPARENTLY OPPOSED TO STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, I BELIEVE US INTERESTS REQUIRE PRECISELY THAT AS MOST URGENT FIRST STEP. IN PREVIOUS SITUATIONS OF THIS KIND, MOST PARTICULARLY AFTER OUTBREAK OF WAR IN JUNE 1967, UNSC CALLED FOR UNQUALIFIED CEASEFIRE. AS CEASEFIRE IS ANNOUNCED PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF USG--AS STIPULATED BY PRESIDENT AND RESTATED IN SCALI SPEECH--I URGE WE IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT SIMPLE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CEASEFIRE AND CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILITIES. UNEQUIVOCAL SC DECISION TO THIS EFFECT WOULD APPEAR AT THIS POINT TO BE ONLY HOPE OF AVOIDING EXTENSION OF CONFLICT TO DIMENSIONS WHICH CANNOT YET CLEARLY BE FORESEEN, WITH GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

4. I REALIZE THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT PARTIES INITIALLY WILL NOT COMPLY WITH STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE, EVEN IF SC SO DECIDES. HOWEVER, CURRENT SITUATION IS CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A BREACH OF THE PEACE AND A PRESENT THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, FOR WHICH UN HAS CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER CHARTER. IF SC IS INDEED AS CONCERNED AS I THINK WE SHOULD BE FOR PREVENTING SPREAD OF HOSTILITIES, WE MAY FIND STRONG BODY OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION CALLING WITH EVER-INCREASING INSISTENCE FOR END TO THE FIGHTING. IN ADDITION, BOTH

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SIDES ARE SUFFERING TREMENDOUS LOSSES, AND A COUNCIL-IMPOSED CEASEFIRE MAY NOT BE SO UNPALATABLE TO EITHER SIDE AS MIGHT EARLIER HAVE BEEN THE CASE.

5. OBVIOUSLY, ONE WOULD HOPE TO SEE SUCH DECISION TAKEN WITH UNANIMOUS COUNCIL SUPPORT. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS REQUIRE THAT WE MAKE THE EFFORT, EVEN IF IT SHOULD FALL SHORT OF UNANIMOUS SUPPORT. IF

ANYONE IS PREPARED TO WAFFLE ON THIS MOVE FOR PREVENTING  
FUTHER HOSTILITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN  
STAGGERING LOSSES OF TROOPS, EQUIPMENT AND WHAT NOW  
SEEMS TO BE BEGINNING OF SIGNIFICANT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES,  
LET HIM STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.  
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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